

also be excluded under 35 U.S.C. §103(c). As this rejection is the only rejection of claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-14, 16-20, and 23-27, allowance of the foregoing claims is requested.

Claims 8, 15, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Armstrong in view of Hegde further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,262,724 to Crow et al. (hereinafter "Crow").

As Hegde is not a reference within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §102, the present combination of Armstrong/ Hegde /Crow is improper and a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been shown. For at least the foregoing reasons, removal of the pending rejection is requested and allowance is solicited.

Conclusion

All of the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowability. If the Office's next anticipated action is to be anything other than issuance of a Notice of Allowability, Applicant respectfully requests a telephone call for the purpose of scheduling an interview.

Respectfully Submitted,

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